

REMARKS

The amendments set out above and the following remarks are believed responsive to the points raised by the Office Action dated March 29, 2005. In view of the amendments set out above and the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-14, which were withdrawn from consideration due to an election and restriction requirement, are canceled and new claims 15-18 are added in this Amendment. Claims 1, 2, and 15-18 are now pending.

Support for new claims 15 and 17 may be found, for example, in original claim 1. Support for new claims 16 and 18 may be found, for example, in original claim 2.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0027002 to Matsumoto (hereinafter, "Matsumoto") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0076642 to Zampini et al. (hereinafter "Zampini"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For an obviousness rejection to be maintained, it is necessary that the proposed combination of references teach every element of the claims. Each and every element of the independent claims 1, 15, and 17 presented here is not found in Matsumoto or Zampini, either alone or in combination.

As to present claim 1, neither Matsumoto nor Zampini discloses a via-filling material comprising, *inter alia*, the formula of claim 1 wherein X is $-S(=O)_2O-$.

Likewise, all of the limitations of new claim 15 are not found or suggested in Matsumoto or Zampini, either alone or in combination. Neither Matsumoto nor Zampini discloses a via-filling material comprising, *inter alia*, the formula of claim 15 wherein R_1 is a member selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, and bromine.

Similarly, all of the limitations of new claim 17 are not disclosed or suggested in Matsumoto or Zampini, either alone or in combination. Neither Matsumoto nor Zampini discloses a via-filling material comprising, *inter alia*, the formula of claim 17 wherein R_2 is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a C_{2-3} alkyl group, and a C_{1-4} alkyl group in which the hydrogen is replaced by at least one of chlorine and bromine.

In summary, neither of the references relied upon in the rejection discloses nor suggests all of the limitations of instant independent claims 1, 15, and 17. Because dependent claims 2, 16, and 18 depend from independent claims 1, 15, and 17 and include all of the limitations of those independent claims, those dependent claims are also patentable over the cited references.

In re Appln. of KUMADA et al.
Application No. 10/623,772

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 15-18 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Lawley
Stephanie M. Lawley, Registration No. 55,362
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: June 27, 2005
SML